

paper.—JOHN K. BOUSEMAN, *Agricultural Entomology, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, and Section of Economic Entomology, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois, 61801.*

Use of Cantharidin and Meloid Beetles to Attract Anthicidae (Coleoptera).—Cantharidin and dead meloid beetles have been known to attract various groups of anthicids, particularly *Notoxus*, for some time. Abdullah (1964, *Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist.* 7: 247–254) presented a list of European and African Anthicids which were known to be drawn to either attractant. Groups represented were *Anthicus*, *Formicomus*, *Notoxus* and *Pedilus* (Pedilidae, North America). Werner's (1964, *Misc. Publ. Entomol. Soc. Amer.* 4: 193–242) collection of two species of *Anthicus* and a *Notoxus* at drying meloids were the first such records for the New World. J. C. van Hille (1954, *South African Jour. Sci.* 51: 154–5) reported that he had collected several species of Anthicidae, which he would not have collected otherwise, through use of cantharidin bait. The potential use of either cantharidin or freshly killed meloid baits apparently has not been explored any further. During the month of July in 1974 and late June and July in 1975, I had the opportunity of using both of these in Mexico. Most collections were made in the higher areas of central and southern Mexico, particularly in the states of Puebla and Oaxaca.

The cantharidin "trap" was made by placing a very small pinch of catharidin powder on top of filter paper in the bottom of a petri dish. Acetone was added to the cantharidin until it dissolved. When the filter paper was allowed to dry in the dish, the cantharidin recrystallized in the paper. In the field the dish was left uncovered in a shaded area while other collecting techniques were tried. The meloid "trap" consisted of an insect box with various species of freshly killed, pinned meloids. The insect box was placed with the top ajar in a shaded area when in use. Meloids were frequently encountered in the field and no problem was presented in maintaining a fresh supply. Loss of attraction was not apparent during the month of collecting each year. Both traps were often left out for about three hours, usually in the morning or late afternoon, checked hourly and emptied at that time.

When present in either trap, the anthicids were often quiescent and when disturbed would letismulate or move around quickly without leaving. In two instances the cantharidin attracted a *Notoxus* species which did not appear at the meloid bait. Anthicids collected in the cantharidin trap were: *Notoxus constrictus* Casey, *N. calcaratus* Horn, *N. hirsutus* Champion, *N. mexicanus* Champion, *N. monodon* LaFerte, *N. talpa* LaFerte, five undescribed species of *Notoxus*, *Mecynotarsus balsasensis* Werner, *Acanthinus scitulus* (LeConte) and *Vacusus infernus* (LaFerte). Anthicids collected in the meloid trap were: *Notoxus constrictus* Casey, *N. calcaratus* Horn, *N. marginatus* LeConte, *N. mexicanus* Champion, *N. murinipennis* LeConte, four undescribed species of *Notoxus* and several *Tomoderus* species. Both the *Acanthinus* and *Vacusus* records were for single specimens attracted in an area where they were very common. Along with Werner's records, which were for *Notoxus nuperus* Horn, *Anthicus nanus* LeConte and *A. lutulentus* Casey, a total of fifteen North American *Notoxus* species were collected with these baits. Insects other than anthicids collected

were two specimens of *Cymatodera* (Cleridae) at cantharidin and a few species of Miridae which were frequently present in small numbers at both traps. No meloids were found in or near the traps.

The sex ratio of most species collected was comparable to the ratios found by other means of collecting, i.e. slightly more females than males. But two species, *N. talpa* and *N. mexicanus*, were represented by all males or mostly males for the latter. European records indicate that collections at bait there are almost entirely males. Most of the European species which are attracted to either bait have apical pits on the outer apical angles of the elytra. This led Abdullah (1964) to speculate that this structure was important in the attraction of anthicids to these baits. Van Hille (1954) examined these pits and found living, presumably secretory cells within them. However, none of the New World species which have been collected so far by these traps have these modified elytra. The question of where the odor is produced is still an open question, as up to now, the evidence had been only circumstantial.

The number of species collected indicates that this is a useful technique. In several cases the traps attracted a single specimen or more of a species which was not found using other techniques. The traps often collected specimens more quickly than the author could. There was only one case where a *Notoxus* (*N. eximius* Champion) was known to be nearby and neither trap attracted it.

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ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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Required six months' notice is given of the possible use of plenary powers by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in connection with the following names listed by case number: (see *Bull. Zool. Nom.* 32, part 4, 30th January, 1976).

- 260. *Dermacentor andersoni* Stiles, 1908 (Acarina: IXODIDAE): proposed conservation.
- 2119. *Lecanium acuminatum* Signoret, 1873 (Hemiptera: COCCIDAE): proposed designation of neotype.
- 2120. *Cystioceras* Börner, 1912 (Insecta: Collembola): proposed suppression.

Comments should be sent in duplicate, citing case number, to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7 5BD, England, if possible within 6 months of the date of publication of this notice. Those received early enough will be published in the Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature.—R. V. MELVILLE, *Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.*